



*Yetu CSO beneficiary undertaking environmental conservation education to pupils in Kimolweet Primary School in Bomet County.*  
Photo: Yetu

## KENYA

### YETU INITIATIVE

Yetu Initiative works with civil society organizations (CSOs) and local development organizations (LDOs) rooted in the communities they serve to advance the principles of self-reliance and locally sustained development. Yetu builds the capacity of these county-level organizations to engage and catalyze the citizen, government, and private sector for county-led development. LDOs leverage community assets, capacity, and trust for community philanthropy. Yetu (“Ours” in Kiswahili), is a Global Development Alliance activity, funded by USAID and the Aga Khan Foundation.

#### OUR WORK

Yetu Initiative fosters a stronger ecosystem for Kenyan CSOs and LDOs through capacity support to accelerate their journey to self-reliance with new approaches and tools. Yetu enables better community engagements, strengthening linkages and trust with like-minded Kenyan organizations, private sector, businesses, corporates, county governments, and individual citizens. Yetu accomplishes this through the following objectives:

#### **SUPPORT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS AT THE COUNTY LEVEL**

Yetu supports the formation of community-owned and community-driven LDOs in Isiolo, Kisii, Makueni, Mombasa and Nakuru counties. Yetu uses a participatory design-driven approach with stakeholders to ensure shared ownership, responsibility, decision making, and power in the formation and positioning of the LDOs. In addition, Yetu empowers these LDOs to bridge the needs of communities with interests of county governments, the private sector, and donors.

## ENHANCE COUNTY-LEVEL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING

Yetu works with LDOs at the county level to establish feedback loops and collect community issues and concerns as well as to undertake action research. This enables community led, evidence-based priorities setting that speaks to the needs of the communities, addressed through a multi-stakeholder approach for collective impact.

## ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY OF LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Yetu works to enhance CSO sustainability through community philanthropy. Yetu has implemented several innovative community philanthropy and capacity development approaches for sustainability including blended learning, peer learning (twinning), and bootcamps (in-person and virtual). Yetu is also building a collaborative space for actors that seek to create an enabling environment for local philanthropy in Kenya through research, policy engagement and lobbying.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Spearheaded the formation and strengthening of Local Development Organizations in five counties of Isiolo, Kisii, Makueni, Mombasa and Nakuru.
- Mobilized over 7500 CSOs in five counties who expressed interest to be part of the newly formed Local Development Organizations.
- Enabled over 200 Kenyan CSOs to launch local fundraising campaigns that succeeded in raising over KES 220 million (US\$2.2M) for local development. Between 2020 and 2021 Yetu adopted the virtual bootcamp approach which enabled CSOs raise funds towards prevention, care and mitigating socio-economic effects of COVID-19.
- Yetu established community feedback loops through use of community champions and crowdsourcing platforms. This has increased community responsiveness to the newly formed Local Development Organizations
- Yetu partnered with civil society stakeholders to address issues curtailing civic space in Kenya through research and advocacy.

**BUDGET:** USAID\$ 5,506,528 and AKF \$5,509,601. Total budget is \$11,016,129

**DURATION:** 2014 - 2022

### ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Isiolo, Kisii, Makueni, Mombasa, and Nakuru counties

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

The Aga Khan Foundation

### KEY PARTNERS

County Governments  
Local Development Organizations  
East African Philanthropy Network  
M-Changa  
Integrity Action  
Ushahidi

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